

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 041225Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6351

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 7632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CB

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH MARSHAL LON NOL RE ASSASSINATION OF  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

1. AROUND 5:30 THIS AFTERNOON PRIME MINISTER TELEPHONED ME FROM CHAMCAR MON PALACE REQUESTING THAT I COME TO SEE THE MARSHAL SOONEST. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT BOTH MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO SANGKIM AND FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION THACH CHIA HAD BEEN KILLED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHO HAD INFILTRATED AMONG STUDENTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL WHERE THE TWO MEN WERE HELD HOSTAGE.

2. PRIME MINISTER USHERED ME INTO LON NOL'S OFFICE WHERE LATTER REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER WITHDRAW. LON NOL SAID THAT NOW THAT BLOOD HAD BEEN SHED IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT CALM THE SPIRITS. HE SAID KHMERS ARE VINDICTIVE PEOPLE AND SOME ELEMENTS WILL NOW WANT REVENGE. MARSHAL THEN ASKED FOR MY ADVICE ON WHAT HE SHOULD DO.

3. I REPLIED THAT I REGRETTED DEATH OF THESE TWO MEN BUT IF ANY SIDE HAD TO HAVE MARTYRS IT WAS BETTER GOVERNMENT HAD THEM RATHER THEAN STUDENTS. I REMINDED THE MARSHAL OF THE EVENTS IN BANGKOK LAST SUMMER AND SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT ACT IN SUCH

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A WAY THAT THE TWO MEN WHO WERE KILLED AT THE SCHOOL DID NOT

DIE IN VAIN. I URGED GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY GO ON RADIO AND TELEVISION RELATING THE EVENTS OF THE DAY. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE GREAT PATIENCE AND MODERATION GOVERNMENT DISPLAYED IN DEALING WITH THE STUDENTS AND ON FACT THAT SECURITY FORCES DID NOT USE WEAPONS IN EFFORT TO FREE THE TWO CAPTIVES. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THESE TWO MEN RECEIVE NATIONAL FUNERALS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT UNITY AMONG ALL KHMERS ON THIS SIDE. CULPRITS WHO WERE ARRESTED IN THE ASSASSINATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC. I ARGUED THAT NOTHING COULD BE GAINED AT THIS STAGE BY USING BRUTAL FORCE AGAINST THE STUDENTS. EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MISGUIDED STUDENTS AND SMALL SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHICH IS TRYING TO USE THESE EVENTS AGAINST THE REGIME. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CURFEW BE MOVED UP FOR A FEW DAYS SO THAT TEMPERS HAVE TIME TO COOL DOWN. FINALLY I SUGGESTED THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH HAS BEEN MOST TROUBLESOME FOR THE GOVERNMENT, PRAISING THE CONSISTENTLY PATIENT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE STUDENT PROBLEM WITHOUT THE USE OF ARMED FORCE.

LON NOL TOOK NOTES WHILE I WAS SPEAKING AND I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MANY IF NOT ALL OF THESE IDEAS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN DEALING WITH SITUATION WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.  
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH MARSHAL LON NOL RE ASSASSINATION OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, CB, (KEO SANGKIN), (THACH CHIA)  
**To:** STATE  
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